



News Release

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Contact: Christine LaPaille or Jason Feuchtwanger,
202/624-5334

GOVERNORS ANNOUNCE DES MOINES AS SITE OF NGA'S 2005 ANNUAL MEETING

WASHINGTON—The National Governors Association today announced that Des Moines, Iowa has been selected as the site of the governors' 97th Annual Meeting. This marks the first time NGA will hold its Annual Meeting in the state.

"NGA is excited to be gathering in Des Moines," NGA Vice Chairman Mississippi Gov. Ronnie Musgrove, who will serve as NGA's Chairman in 2005, said. "NGA meetings offer governors of all political parties the opportunity to sit down together to focus on solutions and ideas that improve state government and strengthen the federal-state partnership. I know Iowa's capital city will serve as an excellent setting."

NGA's nine-member executive committee selected Des Moines for its heartland everyday America appeal, representing traditional American Values.

"The 2005 NGA Annual Meeting is a tremendous opportunity to showcase Iowa's positive business climate, excellent education system, and beautiful natural resources to some of the nation's top leaders," Iowa Governor Thomas Vilsack said. "The national exposure generated by this event will be invaluable as we market Iowa as a state that is open for business."

NGA's Annual Meeting draws approximately 1,200 attendees who represent state and federal organizations. The meeting is one of the association's two official yearly business meetings, with the Winter Meeting held in February in Washington, D.C.

The governors will gather in Des Moines July 23-26. NGA's 2004 Annual Meeting will be held July 17-20 in Seattle. Indianapolis hosted NGA's 2003 Annual meeting.

NGA meetings are one of the most important bipartisan forums in political leadership today, giving governors of all political parties the opportunity to sit down together to share best practices and focus on solutions and ideas that improve state government and strengthen the federal-state partnership.

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NGA represents the governors of the 50 states, the commonwealths of the Northern Mariana Islands and Puerto Rico, and the territories of American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands. Since their initial meeting in 1908 to discuss interstate water problems, the Governors have worked through the National Governors' Association (NGA) to deal collectively with issues of public policy and governance.